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31 March 1964
OCI-1364/64

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Evaluation of Mission S084A,
Flown 20 March 1964; Mission S114A, Flown
29 March 1964; and Further Evaluation of
Mission S074A, Flown 17 March 1964

1. These missions continue to provide extensive but generally repetitive coverage of North Vietnam and northern Laos.

Laos:

2. A total of seventy-two Laotian airfields were photographed, thirty-seven of which reveal no change from previous coverage. Of the remainder, twenty-three fields are under FAR control, four are in areas of Pathet Lao control, four are under Neutralist control, two are abandoned and two are unidentified. The only aircraft photographed continue to be at FAR or Neutralist fields.

3. Thirteen military installations, nine of which reveal no change from previous coverage, and eight suspect military sites were covered. None of the suspect sites revealed any military activity. Two of the remaining sites are under Pathet Lao control but no activity is discernible.

4. Road and rail coverage included eight bridges but was otherwise negligible.

North Vietnam:

5. Six North Vietnamese airfields, all previously photographed, were covered again with no discernible change.

6. Twenty-five military installations were photographed, seventeen of which revealed no change from previous coverage. Two of the new installations, at Thuan Chau and Ban Gia in Military Region Northwest, are of considerable interest. Both are along Route 41 north of Son La within five miles of each other and within forty miles of the Laotian border. Thuan Chau camp has more than 225 buildings. This installation served as the headquarters of MR Northwest until 1960 when the head-

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quarters was moved to Son La. Ban Gia, just to the north, has approximately 300 barracks and 100 support buildings. Photography of 1961 had shown more than 600 buildings at this camp. Current order of battle listings do not carry any units at either location; the nearest unit is the 83rd Regiment of the 335th Brigade in the Son La area. There is a possibility that these two camps may be associated with Hanoi's forced labor program to settle the Northwest. We have asked NPIC to review their photographs of these installations to determine, if possible, their use.

7. Road and rail coverage was confined to the Lao Kay area near the Sino-Vietnamese border. Road construction is underway southwest of Lao Kay and the railbed is being straightened southeast of Lao Kay. One moving train was photographed.

China:

8. A photographic search of the Meng La area failed to disclose an airfield that collateral sources had reported as under construction there. A major barracks area was photographed at Meng La, the location of the 11th Border Defense Regiment. This installation can accomodate considerably more than a regiment and may be the base for the reported road building teams in southern China and northern Laos.

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CAS Division